

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

~~1. An image processing apparatus comprising:~~

a storing section having a storing area for storing image data that has been compressed and divided; and

an image-processing control section which combines and decompresses stored image data in the storing section, and then carries out an image processing on the image data, and which again stores the processed image data that has been compressed and divided in the storing section, the image-processing control section having a judgment section which makes a judgment as to whether or not an empty storing area in the storing section is sufficient in storing the processed image data,

upon judgement by the judgment section showing that the empty storing area is insufficient, the image-processing control section allowing the processed image data to be stored in storing areas including the storing areas in which the stored image data was originally stored.

2. The image-processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein: the storing area is constituted by a plurality of blocks, each storing one divided portion of image data, and if the judgment by the judgment section shows that the empty storing area is sufficient, the image-processing control section preferentially uses an empty storing area

~~consisting of continuous blocks so as to store the processed image data.~~

3. An image-processing apparatus comprising:

a storing section having a storing area for storing image data that has been compressed and divided; and

an image-processing control section which carries out a pre-processing on image data, compresses and divides the image data, and then stores the resulting image data in the storing section as stored image data, which combines and decompresses the stored image data, and then carries out an image processing on the image data, and which again stores the processed image data that has been compressed and divided in the storing section, the image processing including a combining process for main image data and sub image data of the image data, the pre-processing including a process for adding to the main image data a blank section to which the sub image data is inserted.

4. An image-processing apparatus comprising:

a storing section having a storing area for storing image data that has been compressed and divided; and

an image-processing control section which combines and decompresses stored image data stored in the storing section, and then carries out an image processing on the

image data, and which again stores the processed image data that has been compressed and divided in the storing section, the image-processing control section having a judgment section which makes a judgment as to whether or not an empty storing area in the storing section is sufficient in storing the processed image data, based upon the judgment by the judgment section, the image-processing control section allowing the processed image data to be stored in storing areas including the storing section.

5. The image-processing apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein, if the judgment by the judgment section shows that the empty storing area is insufficient, the image-processing control section allows the processed image data to be stored in the storing areas in which the stored image data was originally stored.

6. The image-processing apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein: the storing area is constituted by a plurality of blocks, each storing one divided portion of image data, and if the judgment by the judgment section shows that the empty storing area is sufficient, the image-processing control section preferentially uses an empty storing area consisting of continuous blocks so as to store the processed image data.

~~7. An image processing apparatus, which comprises an~~  
image-processing means for carrying out an image processing  
on image data, which compresses and divides the image data  
so as to be stored in a storing means in a divided manner,  
and which combines the group of the divided and compressed  
image data thus stored, and decompresses and restores them  
so as to be outputted, comprising:

a storing area managing means for managing a storing  
area of the storing means, the storing area managing means  
being designed so that, when, after the group of the divided  
and compressed image data, which were divided and  
temporarily stored in the storing means, have been restored  
and subjected to the image processing, the resulting data is  
again compressed and divided so as to be stored in the  
storing means, a storing area used by the group of the  
divided and compressed image data prior to the image  
processing is also used.

8. The image-processing apparatus as defined in claim  
7, further comprising a judgment means for making a judgment  
as to whether or not empty storing areas in the storing  
means are sufficient in storing the group of divided and  
compressed image data after the image processing,

wherein, when the judgment means shows that the empty  
storing areas are insufficient, the storing area managing

means utilizes a storing area used by the group of the divided and compressed image data prior to the image processing so as to store the group of the divided and compressed image data after the image processing.

9. The image-processing apparatus as defined in claim 8, wherein, upon storing the group of the divided and compressed image data after the image processing in the empty storing areas, the storing area managing means preferentially carries out a storing process in a portion having continuous sections each corresponding to one divisional portion of the compressed image data.

10. An image-processing apparatus, which comprises an image-processing means for carrying out an image processing on image data, which compresses and divides the image data so as to be stored in a storing means in a divided manner, and which combines the group of the divided and compressed image data thus stored, and decompresses and restores them so as to be outputted, comprising:

a pre-processing means which, upon having an instruction for an image-processing involving an image combining process including a center binding edition and an edition for collecting images corresponding to a plurality of pages into one page, carries out a pre-processing for

*SP* ~~allowing image data of an image forming a subject for the~~  
combining process to preliminarily possess a blank section  
to which the image to be combined is inserted, prior to the  
inputted image data is compressed, divided and stored in the  
storing means.

*all*  
SECRET